Central American NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the Central American Group of the Spanish Main Society.

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EDITORIAL

Our April fool joke on the last page of our last issue was well spotted by many of our readers who wrote in. Our thanks to them and to Mark Spycher for the item.

Those of you who collect Guatemala will probably be aware that Bill Simmonds has taken over as Editor of El Quetzal. Our Congratulations and Commiserations to him; Congratulations on an excellent 'first' issue but Commiserations because I know how difficult it is to acquire copy and involve the membership.

Eugene Philley's query regarding Nicaraguan Revenues has produced a response from Kilian Nathan. From the finest collection of Nicaragua ever put together comes a set of photostats of these issues from which I propose producing a tentative listing for members' comments. Hopefully this will commence in the next issue. Perhaps members would sort their revenues in anticipation of this in order to provide a prompt response to this venture. Let us hope an authoratative listing results from this which will be to the benefit of all concerned.

I am pleased to include with this issue Private Treaty list Number 2. I hope that this one will sell as well as the last (100%).

Finally I would like to pay tribute to John Walmsley, who through pressure of work will shortly be relinquishing the role of treasurer to the two groups. I have been most impressed by the way John has so efficiently carried out this role, which is vital to the smooth running of the club, and I would like to express my thanks to him. I am pleased to be able to tell you that an able replacement for treasurer has been found in Colin Eddleston, who will be taking over in the near future. In the meantime overdue subscriptions should continue to be sent to John, until further notice.

mpb

SPANISH MAIN Annual subscription £6 (Europe), US$16 (elsewhere). The subscription includes four copies of Mainsheet, and also private treaty lists and auction catalogues.

Secretary: Brian Moorhouse, PO Box 105, PETERBOROUGH PE3 8TQ.

The society also runs two specialised groups, the Central American and the Chile groups. The subscription to each group is £5 (Europe) US$12 (elsewhere). The subscription includes four copies of the respective Newsletter.

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NICARAGUA: THE 'R DE C' STAMPS by D N KILNER

In May 1921 the building rented for the use of the General Post Office in Managua was totally destroyed by fire and the then existing stock of stamps, postal property and valuable records were lost.

In order to provide funds for the rebuilding of the post office, it was proposed that a compulsory tax be levied on every letter and package. To indicate payment of the tax, stamps were overprinted 'R de C', which stood for 'RECONSTRUCCION DE COMMUNICACIONES'. The amount of the tax was 1 centavo. The accounts and record of sales of these stamps were to be kept separate from the regular postage stamps and the tax was to be discontinued when the required sum to rebuild the post office had been realised. The use of the stamps for the payment of regular postage was not permitted.

This tax called for the continuous use of large quantities of stamps and during the period up to 1936, sundry provisional issues of these were needed from time to time. This article is an attempt to list and illustrate the various issues and to discuss their use on mail.

THE STAMPS

There were about thirty three issues of stamps to be used for the imposition of the tax, divided into three separate types.

1. Provisional issues.
2. Stamps inscribed 'Reconstruccion Correos'
3. Stamps inscribed 'Reconstruccion Communicaciones'.

1. July 1921: SG448-452, Scott RA1-5.

«Particular»
R de C

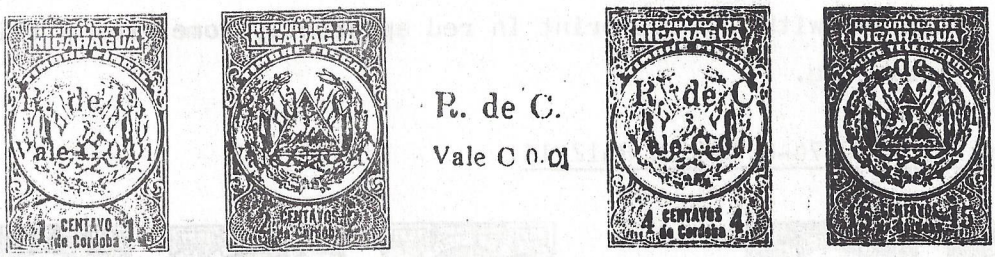
Vale
un centavo
R de C

The first issue was the 1, 5, 6, 10 and 15 centavos blue official stamps of 1915. The 1 centavo was overprinted 'Particular/R de C' in two lines with two bars to obliterate the 'OFICIAL' overprint. The remaining four values were surcharged 'Vale/un centavo/R de C' in three lines and again with two bars to obliterate the 'OFICIAL' overprint.

Errors: a) Double surcharge on the 10 centavos value.
b) Double surcharge, one inverted on the 15 centavos value.

Varieties: 'uu' for 'un' on the 5 to 15 centavos values.
Constant varieties on the issue include a smaller 'R de C' (1½mm instead of 2mm high), antique 'C' and double dotted bars.

2. September 1921: SG453-6, Scott RA6-9.



Four fiscal stamps, namely a 1 centavo vermilion, 2 centavos green, 4 centavos orange, inscribed 'TIBRE FISCAL', and a 15 centavos indigo inscribed 'TIMBRE TELEGRAFICO' all with the original values in black. These were surcharged 'R. de C./Vale C 0.01' in two lines 4mm apart, in red.

Errors: a) Double surcharge on the 2, 4 and 15 centavos values.
b) Double surcharge, one inverted, on the 2 centavos value.

Varieties

The surcharge on the 1 and 2 centavos values has been found only 2mm between the lines (illustrated left). A small 'l' in 'Vale C 0.01' on the 4 centavos has been found.

3. 1922: SG464, Scott RA10.

Vale
un centavo
R. de C.

The 10 centavos yellow stamp (SG401, Scott 356), surcharged 'Vale/un centavo/R.de C.' in three lines in black.

Errors: a) Surcharge inverted.
b) Surcharge double.
c) Surcharge double, both inverted.

Varieties. The surcharge has been found with a stop after the 'de' and no stop after the 'C' of 'R.de C.'.

4. 1922: SG473, Scott RA11.

The 1 centavo violet stamp of the 1922-24 definitive issue (SG466, Scott 409), overprinted 'R. de C.' in black.

Errors: Surcharge Double.

Stamps with the overprint in red apparently come from a trial printing.

5. September 1922: SG474-8, Scott RA12-16.

The 1, 5, 10, 25 and 50 centavos values of the 1921 Centenary of Independence issue (SG458 & 460-63, Scott 402 & 404-7) surcharged 'R.de C./Vale/un centavo' in three lines in black.

Errors: a) Inverted surcharge on the 25 centavos.
b) Double surcharge on the 50 centavos.

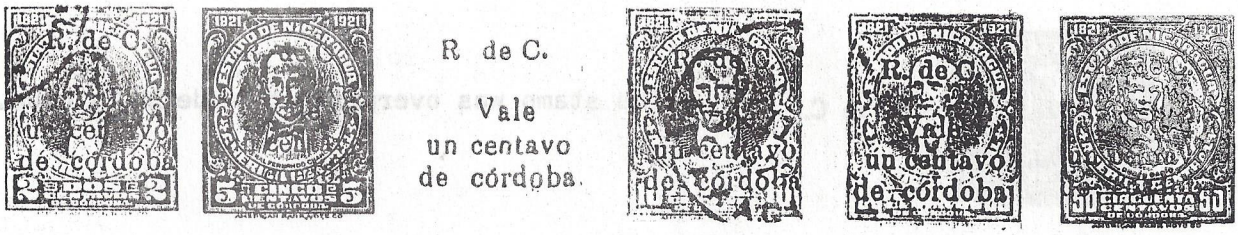
6. 1922-23: SG479-81, Scott RA17, 18 & 24.

These were locally produced stamps and consisted of three fiscal stamps - yellow, mauve and pale blue - without inscription, and locally surcharged 'Nicaragua/R.de C./Vale/un cent.' in four lines, in red on the yellow and pale blue stamps and blue on the mauve stamp. The basic design of the stamps had the shaded scrolls at the top.

Errors: Surcharge inverted on all three stamps.

Varieties: The surcharge occurs with no stop after 'C' of 'R.de C.' on the yellow and mauve stamps and a broken 'C' of 'R.de C.' on the blue stamp.

7. 1923: SG488-92, Scott RA19-23.



R de C.
Vale
un centavo
de córdoba.

The 2, 5, 10, 25 and 50 centavos of the 1921 Centenary of Independence Issue (SG459-63, Scott 403-7) surcharged (R.de C./Vale/un centavo/de córdoba' in in four lines, in black.

Varieties: The surcharge occurs with no stop after 'R' of 'R.de C.', and 'uu' for 'un' on all values.

8. 1923: SG493, Scott RA25.

The 1 centavo vermilion and black fiscal stamp used in the September 1921 issue overprinted 'R.de C.' only, in black.

Error: Overprint double, one inverted.

For the ninth, tenth and eleventh issues, the basic stamp used was the 1 centavo violet stamp of the 1922 definitive series (SG466, Scott409).

9. 1924: SG494, Scott RA26.

R. de C.
1924

The stamp was overprinted 'R.de C./1924' in two lines, in blue.

Error: Overprinted double (it is not known whether this occurs in both settings.

Varieties: There are two settings of the overprint with '1924' 5½mm or 6½mm long.

10. 1925: SG499, Scott RA27.

R. de C.
1925

The stamp was overprinted 'R.de C./1925' in two lines, in blue.

11. 1926: SG512, Scott RA25.

R. de C.

The stamp was overprinted 'R.de C.' in blue.

In 1927 and 1928, in order to stop the cleaning and re-use of cancelled stamps, the definitive issues were overprinted 'Resello/1927' and 'Resello/1928' in two lines. The overprints were also applied to the obligatory tax stamps.

12. 1927: SG555-8, Scott RA29-32.

The 1926 tax stamp (SG512, Scott RA25), overprinted 'Resello/1927' in four different colours - violet, black, red and blue.

Errors: The following errors occur on the various coloured overprints.

a) Violet. Overprint inverted. Overprint double.
b) Black. Overprint double. Overprint double, one inverted.
c) Red. Overprint double. Overprint double, one inverted.
d) Blue. Overprint double. Overprint double, one inverted.

13. 1927: (Scott RA34).

The 1925 tax stamp overprinted 'R.de C./1925' in two lines in blue (SG499, Scott RA27) further overprinted 'Resello 1928' in two lines in violet. This stamp is only listed in Scott as far as I can tell, and I have yet to see a copy of this stamp.

14. 1928: SG 572-3, Scott RA34-5.

2mm overprint

8mm overprint

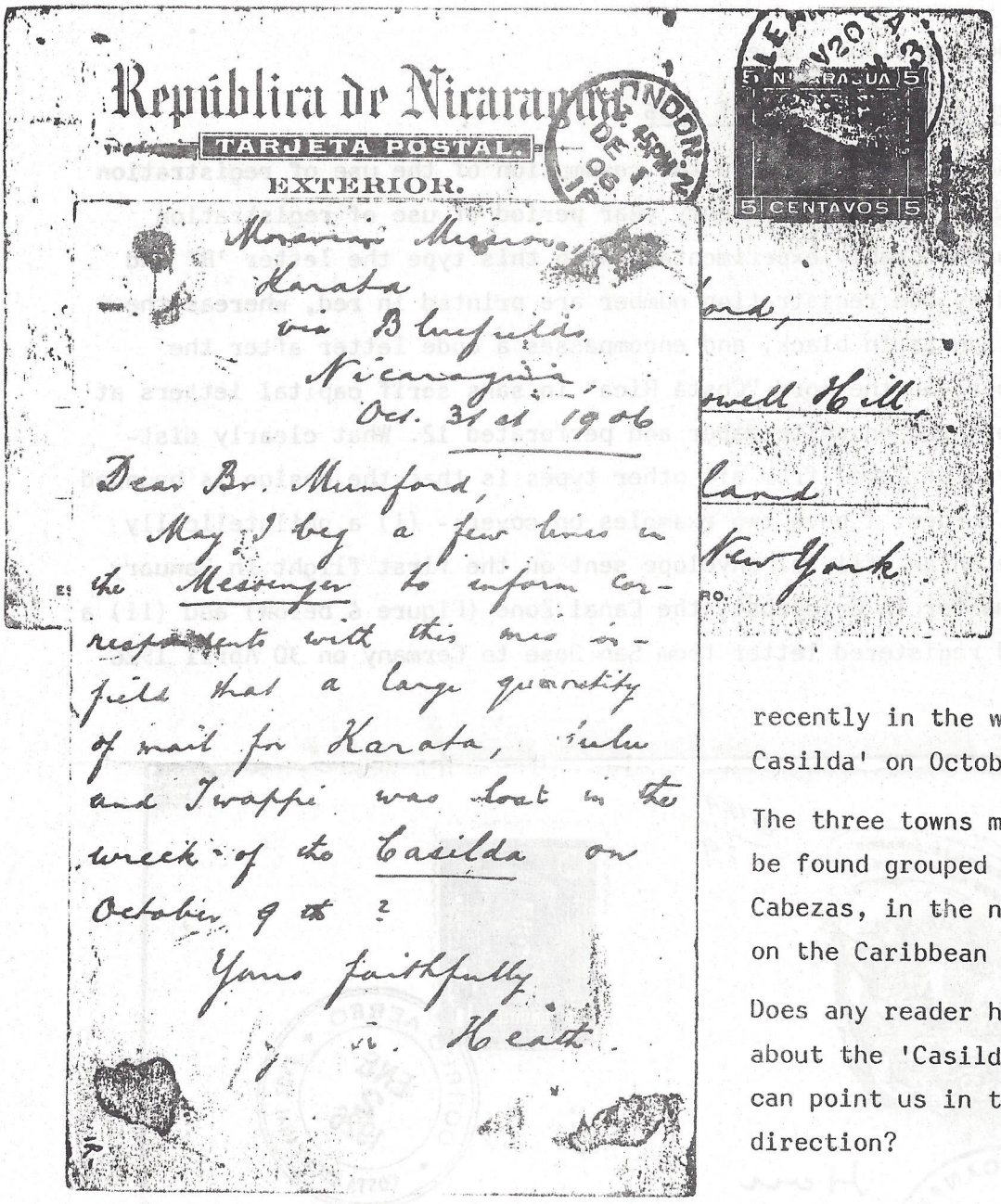
The 1926 tax stamp (SG512, Scott RA25) overprinted 'Resello/1928' in two lines approximately 2mm apart, in violet and a further overprint in two lines 8mm apart, in black.

Error: 2mm overprint double.

Varieties: 2mm opt '928' for '1928'; 8mm opt '1828' for '1928'

to be continued

NICARAGUA: THE WRECK OF THE 'CASILDA'


República de Nicaragua
TARJETA POSTAL.
EXTERIOR.
5 NICARAGUA 5
5 CENTAVOS 5
Moravian Mission,
Karata
via Bluefields
Nicaragua,
Oct. 31st 1906
Dear Br. Mumford,
May I beg a few lines in the Messenger to inform correspondents with this mail is filled that a large quantity of mail for Karata, Yulu and Twappi was lost in the wreck of the Casilda on October 9th ?
Yours faithfully
W. Heath.
well Hill,
land
New York.

Dennis Kilner sends us a photocopy of a card in his collection, with a request for information.

The card from Karata to London asks the Rev. Mumford to inform the readers of the 'Messenger' that mail for Karata, Yulu and Twappi was lost recently in the wreck of 'The Casilda' on October 9(?), 1906.

The three towns mentioned are to be found grouped around Puerto Cabezas, in the north of Nicaragua on the Caribbean coast.

Does any reader have information about the 'Casilda' or perhaps can point us in the right direction?

HONDURAS 1895 ISSUE Richard Washburn writes to ask if anyone, other than himself, has an example of the 1895 issue (Justice Statue), which was valid from February 15 to December 31, 1895 on cover. His is a registered cover and he has not seen another, and finds it hard to believe that his can be the only one left in existence.

THREE SCARCE TYPES OF COSTA RICAN REGISTRATION LABELS

by RICHARD SAUNDRY

(Continued from our previous issue)

Type II - The "Experimental" Type of 1926

This type from the mid-1920's marked the resumption of the use of registration labels in Costa Rica following a twenty year period of use of registration handtsamps, and was probably experimental. With this type the letter 'R' and 'No....' followed by the registration number are printed in red, whereas the rest of the printing is in black, and encompasses a code letter after the registration number and the word "Costa Rica" in sans serif capital letters at the bottom, all printed on white paper and perforated 12. What clearly distinguishes this type of label from all other types is that the design is bounded by a double-line border. I have two examples on cover:- (i) a philatelically contrived example on an official envelope sent on the first flight in January 1926 to the Postmaster in Cristobal, the Canal Zone (Figure 6 below) and (ii) a commercially used registered letter from San Jose to Germany on 30 April 1926 (Figure 7).

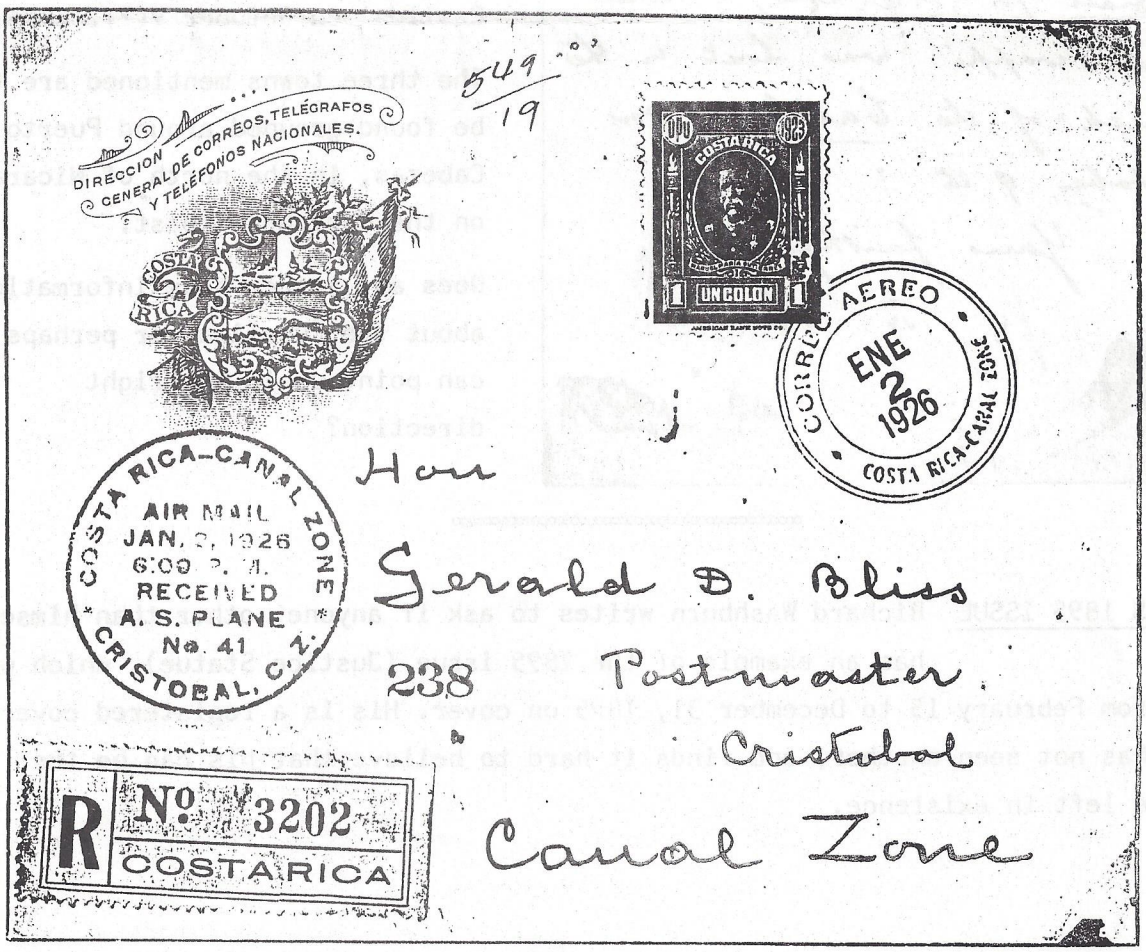


Figure 6. The "Experimental" Type of 1926. 2 January 1926.

GRILLO HERMANOS
FARMACIA
GRILLO
50 VARAS AL NORTE DE LA BOTICA ORIENTAL
Sres 6523
F. Wolff & Sohn
Karlsruhe-(Baden)
Alemania
R Nº 3934 B
COSTA RICA
R.R. EXTERIOR
APR 30
R.R. EXTERIOR
APR 30 1926
SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA
Como desinfectante y garrapaticida no hay nada tan eficaz como la -ENOLINA.— Pero rechace las Imitaciones.
FERNATOZE es el nombre del Específico que la cura. Es la salvación de los niños
Ya no hay que desesperarse con los casos de Tosferina
TOSFERINA
BÁLSAMO DE ORO
El tónico ideal para casos de Impotencia y Neurastenia Sexual
ASMÁTICOS!!
Recordad que vuestra Salud está en la
YODALINA
El único remedio eficaz es el CONTRA-PALUDISMO del Dr. Cook
Más de veintidós años de éxito, garantizan su Eficacia
CALENTURAS!! ⊙ FIEBRES!! ⊙ PALUDISMO!!

Figure 7. The "Experimental Type of 1926. 30 April 1926.

Type III - The Pink "Interior" Label

In the beginning of the 1930's Costa Rica experimented with anonymous labels printed on pink paper, perforated 12, with the letter 'R' and registration number printed in red, and the frame lines and either the word 'INTERIOR' or 'EXTERIOR' in black. Obviously these two types of labels were intended for use on letters to be used internally or to be sent abroad respectively, but it is not uncommon to find 'INTERIOR' labels used on letters addressed abroad. Labels with the words printed in serif letters are quite common.

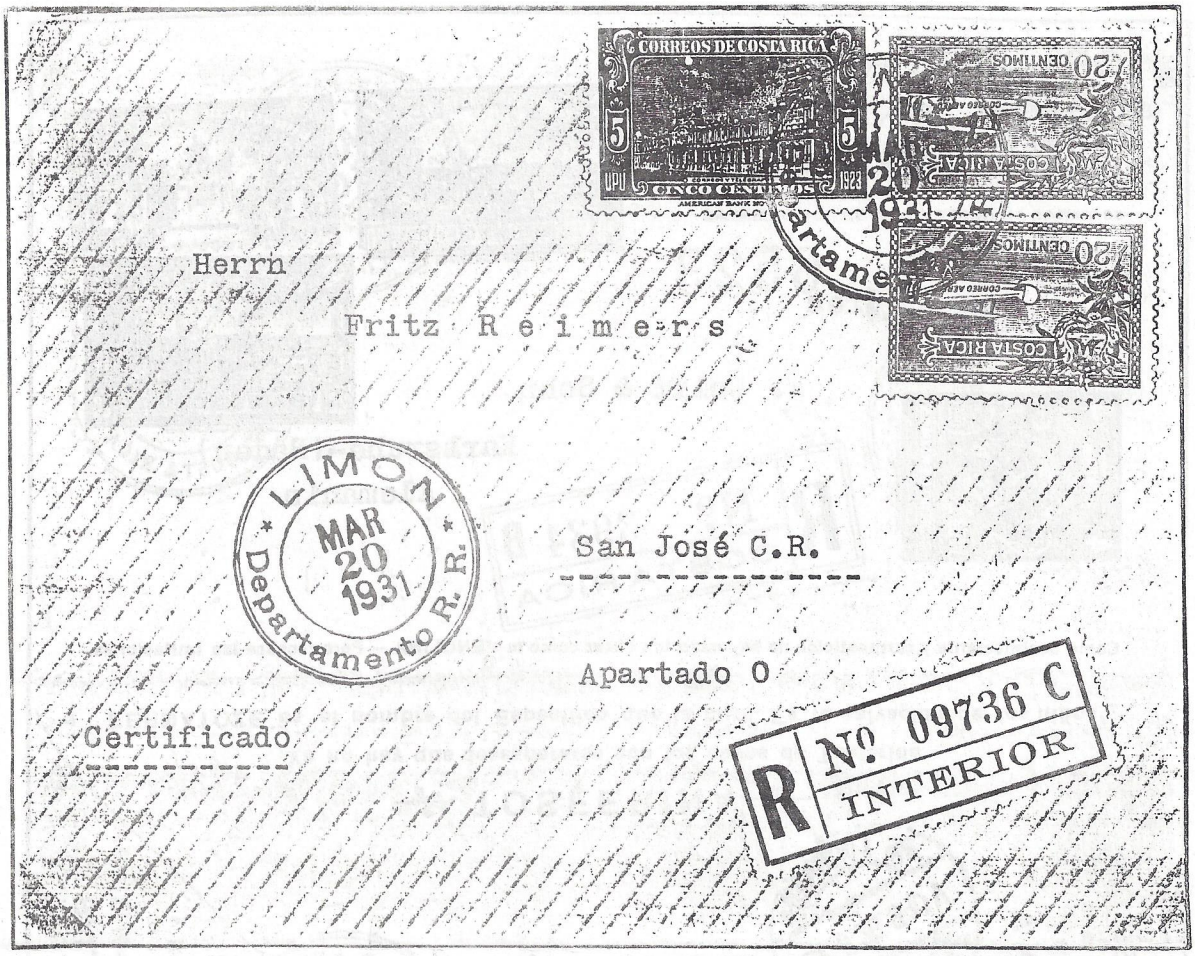


Figure 8 (above)

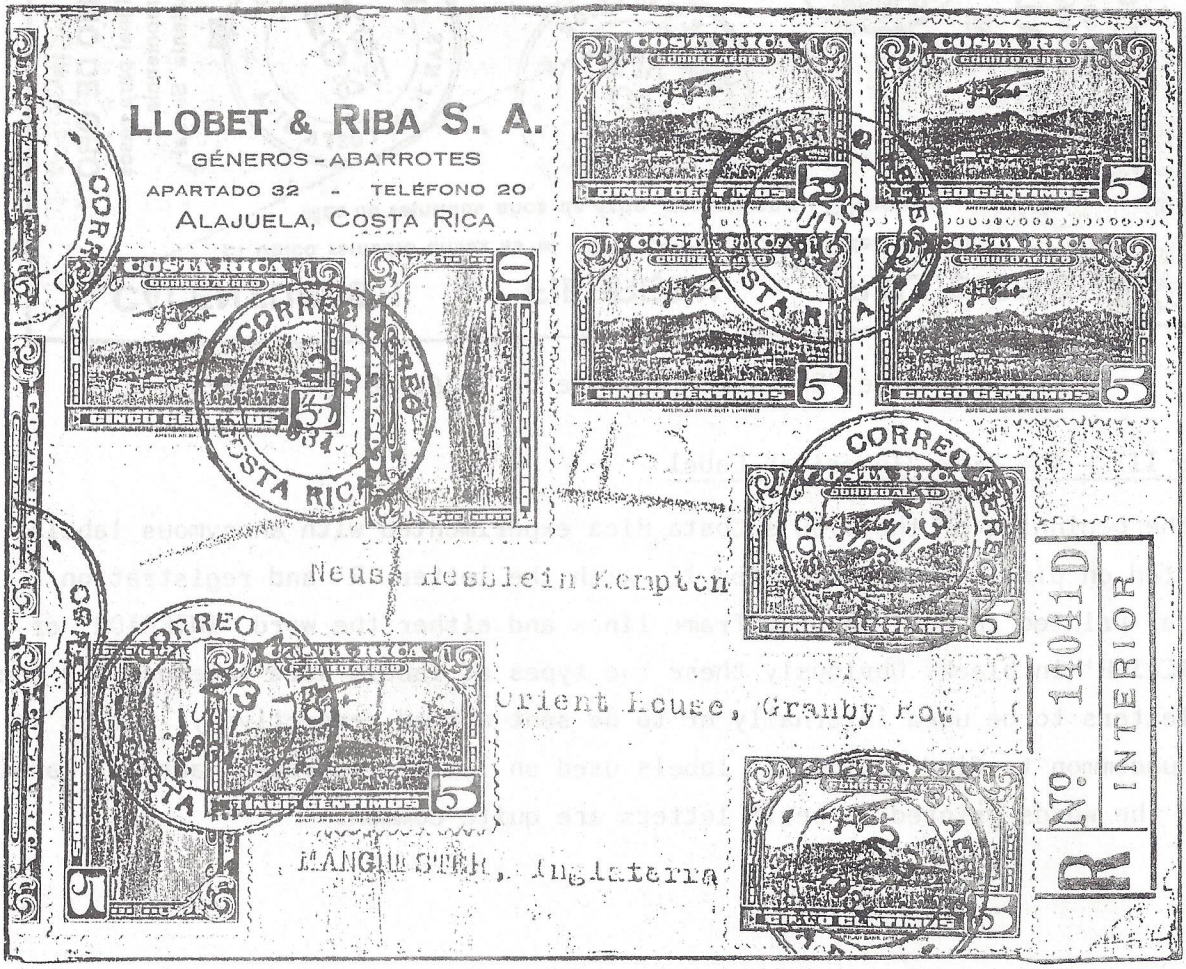


Figure 9 (below)

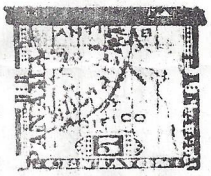
The example illustrated as Figure 8 is an example of the 'INTERIOR' label with seriffed letters, which are quite common. It was sent from Limon 20 March 1931. Much more elusive however, and the only example that I have seen, is a similar registration label with the word 'INTERIOR' printed in a distinctive different font almost sans serif letters. This label is perforated 11½ and my example is on an airmail cover from Alajuela to England 23 October 1934 (Figure 9).

Comments

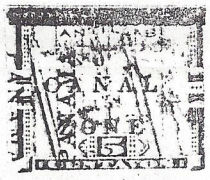
Relatively little has been written about the Costa Rican registration labels - I know of only one such article - by Bill Lyons in Oxcart (1979) Vol.77, pp108-114. Obviously judgement as to the relative rarity or otherwise of any type of label will depend upon inspection of more letters than I have. I would be grateful if readers would look at examples in their collections and confirm or dispute those types that I believe to be the more elusive.

CANAL ZONE: AN UNUSUAL DISCOVERY

From Lionel Ward comes an example of Canal Zone SG12 with the Overprint 'Panama' shifted to the right. This results in 'Panama' from the adjacent stamp appearing on the left side. Would anyone care to comment on how this may have happened or whether other examples are known to exist?



normal



variety

COSTA RICA: AN UNKNOWN LABEL

From two different sources I have been sent a photocopy of a Costa Rican label asking if our readers know anything about it. The illustration here is x2, and the label itself is printed in green. The inscription and illustrations suggest a connection with sport in some form or other, but beyond that nothing is known either of its use or of its age. Comments are welcome.

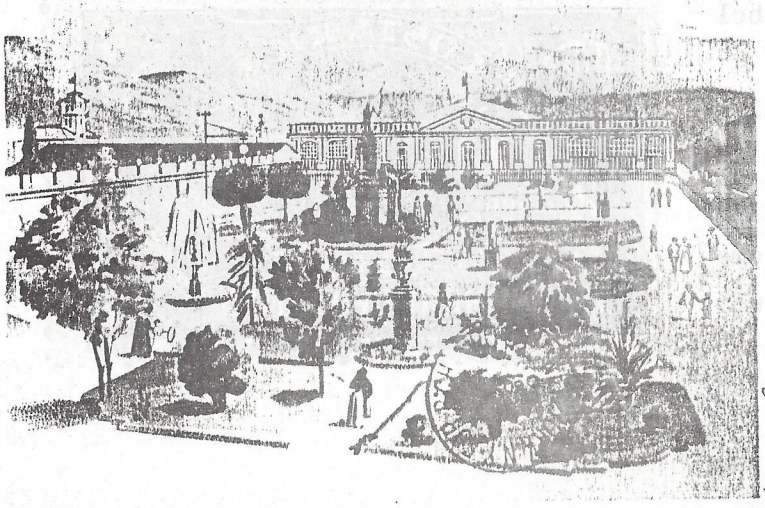
POSTCARD PAGE

From Derek Palmer comes three delightful postcards, two from San Salvador and one from Costa Rica. These cards make a delightful side collection and from experience I would urge anyone to collect them.

21. May 1907

San Salvador, 27. April 1907.

Herzlichen Dank



San Salvador 27 April 1907

Herzlichen Gruß

Hermann Bergthem